

Calendars

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Research References

- 4 Hinds §§ 3115–3118
- 7 Cannon §§ 881–1023
- 7 Deschler Ch 22 §§ 1, 2
- Manual §§ 742–747

§ 1. In General; Kinds of Calendars

The House under its rules maintains various calendars to facilitate the scheduling and consideration of its legislative business. See Rule XIII. These include:

- The House Calendar. This calendar receives referrals of public bills that do not raise revenue or directly or indirectly make or require an appropriation of money or property. *Manual* § 742.
- The Union Calendar. Measures belonging on the Union Calendar are those on subjects which fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee of the Whole. Deschler Ch 22 § 2. Subjects which must be considered in the Committee of the Whole are specified in Rule XXIII clause 3. Bills appropriating money or property are referred to the Union Calendar (*Manual* § 742). The same is true of bills authorizing an undertaking by a governmental agency which will incur an expense to the government, however small. 8 Cannon § 2401.
- The Private Calendar (to which are referred bills of a private character). See PRIVATE CALENDAR.
- The Corrections Calendar (§ 5, *infra*).
- The Discharge Calendar (to which are referred motions to discharge committees). *Manual* § 747. See DISCHARGING MEASURES FROM COMMITTEES.

These calendars—the Discharge Calendar excepted—consist primarily of lists of measures on which committee action has been completed and which are ready for floor action. They are printed daily and appear in *Calendars of the United States House of Representatives*.

Calendar Wednesday is not strictly speaking a legislative calendar. The term refers to the procedure for the call of committees on Wednesday for the consideration of unprivileged bills on the House and Union Calendars. See CALENDAR WEDNESDAY.

§ 2. Referrals to Calendars

Measures Reported Favorably

Bills that are favorably reported from a committee are referred to the appropriate calendar under the direction of the Speaker unless referred to other committees under clause 5 of Rule X. *Manual* § 743. Public bills favorably reported are first referred either to the Union Calendar or to the House Calendar and those that are not required to be referred to the former are referred to the latter. Deschler Ch 22 § 2.

The reference of a bill to a particular calendar is governed by the text of the bill as referred to committee, and amendments reported by a committee are not considered in making this determination. 8 Cannon § 2392. Amendments to private bills, see BILLS.

Measures Reported Unfavorably

Bills that are adversely reported from committee are not referred to a calendar unless a request to that effect is made by the committee or a Member. Deschler Ch 22 § 1.1. Under the applicable House rule, Members have three days in which to request such a referral. *Manual* § 744. Precedents indicate that adversely reported resolutions also may be referred to a calendar by the Speaker when a timely request is made by a Member pursuant to this rule. 93–2, May 30, 1974, p 16865. Absent such a request, an adversely reported measure is laid on the table. *Manual* § 744. Thereafter, it may be taken from the table and placed on the calendar only by unanimous consent. 6 Cannon § 750.

Privileged measures are excepted from the general rule that only favorably reported bills are referred to a calendar. Adverse reports on privileged resolutions (including resolutions of inquiry) are automatically referred to the proper calendar by the Speaker. 94–2, Sept. 8, 1976, p 29274.

Measures Reported Improperly

A bill that has been improperly reported from a committee is not entitled to a place on the calendar, and should be recommitted. 4 Hinds § 3117.

§ 3. — Erroneous Referrals

A bill that is on the wrong calendar is subject to a point of order when it is called up for consideration. 6 Cannon §§ 746, 747. Such a point of order is untimely if made after consideration of the measure has begun. 7 Cannon § 856.

An error in the referral of a bill to a calendar may be corrected pursuant to motion. Such a motion presents a question of the privilege of the House. 3 Hinds §§ 2614, 2615. But a mere clerical error in the calendar, such as an incorrect date, does not give rise to such a question. 3 Hinds § 2616.

The Speaker has general authority to correct an erroneous reference by him of a reported bill to a calendar, and to transfer the bill to the proper calendar. 7 Cannon § 859; 95–1, Sept. 8, 1977, p 28273; 101–2, Sept. 10, 1990, p _____. Thus, a private bill erroneously referred to the Union Calendar may be transferred to the Private Calendar by direction of the Speaker. 98–2, Apr. 26, 1984, p 10242. The transfer of the bill to the proper calendar may be made effective as of the date of the original reference. Deschler Ch 22 § 1.2; 98–2, Apr. 26, 1984, p 10242. The Speaker may correct such a reference at any time before consideration of the bill begins and while the question of consideration is pending. 6 Cannon § 748.

The authority of the Speaker to correct a calendar reference does not apply where the reference was made by the House itself. 6 Cannon § 749.

§ 4. Discharge From Calendars

Although the Speaker has no specific authority under the House rules to remove a reported bill from the Union Calendar, he may discharge such a bill for reference to another committee pursuant to his general responsibility under Rule X clause 5 to fashion sequential referrals where appropriate. 95–2, Apr. 27, 1978, p 11742; 99–2, June 19, 1986, p 14741. Authority is also given in the Budget Act [§ 401(b)] for the Speaker to discharge a reported bill from the Union Calendar and make a 15-day referral to the Committee on Appropriations of reported bills providing certain new entitlement authority. 95–1, Sept. 8, 1977, p 28153. This authority has sometimes been rendered inoperative under other Budget Act enforcement provisions. See *Manual* § 1007.

§ 5. The Corrections Calendar

In 1995, the House abolished the Consent Calendar and replaced it with the Corrections Calendar. Under new clause 4 of Rule XIII, bills favorably reported from committee and on the House or Union Calendar are also eligi-

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ble for placement on the Corrections Calendar. Placement on the calendar is by direction of the Speaker in his discretion (after consultation with the Minority Leader). H. Res. 161, June 14, 1995.

Bills that have been on the calendar for three legislative days may be called up for consideration in the House on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Such bills are debatable for one hour but are not subject to amendment unless offered by the committee of primary jurisdiction or its chairman or his designee. Bills called up under this procedure require a three-fifths vote for passage. *Manual* § 746.